

Because the settlers in Center Creek depended upon farming for their livelihood, irrigation waters were of utmost importance. Some of the earliest community cooperative projects, as well as some of the disputes, transpired because of the need for irrigation water.

The first settlers in the area laid claim to the water in Center Creek and also some of the smaller streams nearby. This meant that new families coming into the area either had to get permission from the older residents to use the water, or look elsewhere for their irrigation needs. The new settlers felt that there was ample water for everyone if it were to be distributed fairly, but try as they would, they couldn't persuade the original settlers to give up much of it.

As a result, many meetings were held in an effort to solve the problem, and it was finally resolved that the newer settlers would go into Center Creek Canyon and look for sites where reservoirs could be built to hold water that was just going to waste. They located and staked out six reservoir sites, and began the task of building the dams. However, the struggles were still not ended because the early settlers then attempted to stop them from filling the dams. Many lively meetings ensued before it was finally decided to organize a reservoir company in 1879 and subsequently the Center Creek Irrigation and Water Company in 1887. Now 72 years later these two companies were consolidated in 1962.

With the organization of the Irrigation Company, the settlement of disputes was left up to the officers and directors, who attempted to be as fair as possible. William Richardson Sr. was the first president of the company. Other officers were Parley Murdock, Archibald Sellers and George Hyrum Sweat.

While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek, and began about 1877. Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann, and William Lindsay and his wife Mary, had been living in Heber, but decided to look around for a site where they might establish more permanent homes. They finally decided on a site three miles east of Heber, near a spring, and in 1877 moved from Heber to begin farming the rich soil.

They built log homes and lived close together until about 1883 when they decided it would be much easier to work the farm land if one family lived in the upper section. They drew lots to see who would move, and Robert got the "cut" to move. He built a two-room log house and later a large, two-story home for his family.

As these men found success in farming the Lake Creek land, others soon began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdock Sr., William Baird Sr. and John W. Crook.

An excellent sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone was used to build many of

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